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## CLEANING METAL FURNITURE

- Take care of your furniture—it will look nicer and last longer.
- Clean furniture helps prevent disease and keeps insects out of your house.

### WASHING

Often dirt and fingerprints can be rubbed off metal and plastic with a damp cloth. If this doesn't work, wash metal furniture with detergent and water to get rid of dried-on food and stubborn dirt and grease. (Fig. 1) Do it this way:

- Add detergent—1 to 2 tablespoons to 1 quart of water to make suds.
- Pick up some of the thick suds off the top of the sudsy water with a damp sponge or cloth. Don't let the sponge get dripping wet.
- Use the sudsy sponge or cloth to rub the furniture. Wash a small part at a time.

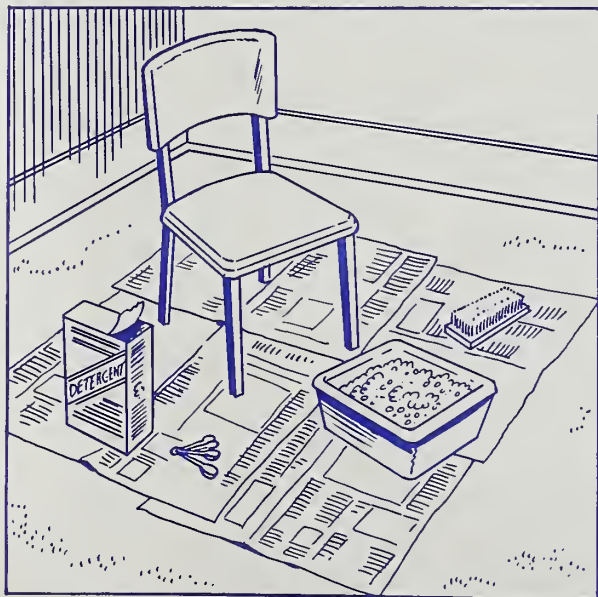


Fig. 1

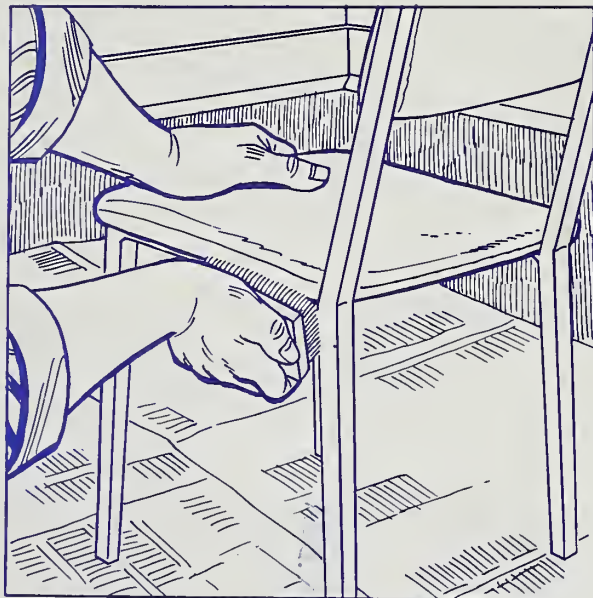


Fig. 2

- Dip a brush into the sudsy water. Shake off the extra water. Use the brush to clean seams and grooves and get into these hard-to-clean places. (Fig. 2)
- Use a clean damp cloth or sponge to wipe up the suds as soon as you finish washing each small area.
- Don't forget to wash the underside of the furniture—especially on such things as kitchen tables.
- When the whole piece of furniture is clean, dip a sponge or cloth in clean water, wring it out, and wipe the whole piece of furniture again. Finally, rub it with a dry cloth to prevent water spots.

## WAXING AND POLISHING

If you want to use wax, use a white cream wax—the type made for kitchen appliances. This wax also has cleaning power and helps make your furniture shine.

Pour a little wax on a damp cloth. Rub it on a small area of the furniture. (Fig. 3) Polish with a clean, dry cloth before the wax has dried.

Put wax on only once or twice a year.

These methods can also be used to clean and polish laminated plastic tops on counters or furniture (usually table tops or chests of drawers).



Fig. 3

This publication was adapted by Glenda Pifer, Housing Specialist, from "How To Clean Metal Furniture"—B2313, by Cooperative Extension Service, University of Wisconsin. Issued October 1973.